



SENSITIVE FERN  
*Onoclea sensibilis*

In wet, open ground, thickets and swamps throughout the Division. Name arises from its sensitivity to early frost.

A coarse fern arising from creeping, forking rootstocks, 0.05 to 1.2 m high. Fertile and sterile fronds differing. Fertile fronds with erect branches each composed of numerous berry-like divisions, at first encapsulating the spores and later drying and cracking open allowing the spores to escape; becoming dark brown or blackish with age; persistent over winter; 30 to 75 cm high. Sterile fronds firm; the 2 to 16 pairs of lance- or lance-oblong shaped segments have entire, wavy or coarsely divided edges; 1.5 to 55 cm long. Fruit mature from June to October.



Notes